

Atlantic Rim Review Team

June 18th, 2014



NEPA and the EIS

- Intent of NEPA - encourage environmental protection and informed decision-making
- Purpose of the EIS
 - Disclose impacts of an action
 - Identify mitigation measures to moderate the impacts
 - Impacts analyzed in the context of those mitigation measures



Adaptive Management

- Presentation by John Russell, BLM Project Manager



The Atlantic Rim ROD

- Demonstrate achievement of performance goals
- Submit annual operating plans
- Work cohesively as a team to:
 - Identify mitigation measures
 - Implement performance-based approach



Operator Committed Practices

- Appendix C of the ROD
 - Annual work plans for each developing or operational POD will be used instead of piecemeal individual APDs.
 - Each year on April 1, the Operators will submit to the BLM RFO comprehensive annual work plans for the following year
 - Includes APD packages and other appropriate permit application materials for construction and development



Operator Committed Practices

- Annual work or site specific plans for developing or operational PODs will include geo-referenced information compatible with ArcMap that details:
 - Pad and well locations
 - Pipeline routes
 - Water transfer stations
 - Road locations
 - Road construction techniques
 - Wind ditch, water bar, and culvert placement etc.



Performance Goals

Item	Performance Goal
Migration Routes	maintain functional migration routes through or around development areas
Big Game Crucial Winter Range	provide an adequate amount of suitable undisturbed crucial winter range for big game animals
Sage and Sharp-Tailed Grouse	provide well-dispersed sage-grouse breeding, nesting, brood rearing, and winter habitat
Muddy Creek Sensitive Fish	maintain adequate water quality, water quantity, species distribution, and aquatic habitat components
Shrub-Dependent Song Birds	assure occupied habitat for shrub-dependent song birds is well-distributed throughout the project area
Riparian	ensure no net loss of native riparian habitat/vegetation
Grazing	maintain adequate and sustainable food and habitat for domestic animals
Range Condition	maintain range condition or improve range condition towards potential for the ecological site
Livestock Safety	minimize deaths and injuries of livestock due to development and operational activities
Range Improvements	minimize damage to range improvements, gates, cattle guards, water sources, and other livestock grazing management improvements
Standards and Guidelines	manage to meet Wyoming Healthy Rangeland Standards
Sites	maintain viable site-stabilizing native plant growth
Species Composition	maintain a range of species composition, diversity, cover, and production equal to pre-disturbance levels
Weeds	maintain weed-free sites



Performance Goals

- Status of the Performance Goals
 - How can it be demonstrated that they are being met?
 - Operators are responsible for demonstrating successful achievement of performance goals (ROD, pg. 20).
 - In the absence of sufficient data illustrating Operator achievement of Performance Goals, the BLM will use a conservative approach when considering additional approvals (ROD, pg. 20).
 - The Review Team, the BLM, or both, will identify the level of effort required for performance-based monitoring and develop associated monitoring plans (ROD, pg. 21).



Performance Goals

- Progress so far:
 - Mule Deer
 - Grouse
 - Songbirds
 - Muddy Creek
- Still to do:
 - Reclamation
 - Grazing, Range, and Livestock



Conservative Approach

- Currently, Working Group members are in the process of identifying recommendations for the Review Team on what a conservative approach entails.

